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HEALTH
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STAFFFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for

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F.W.Gavin, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Univ. Edin.)
Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Field and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the Startforth Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

The mid-year population, as estimated by the Registrar General was 5070 a decrease of 10 under that for the year 1954.

The total number of births was 61 as compared with 69 in the previous year and once again there were no maternal deaths but in 1955 there were 5 infantile deaths - two of these were premature twins who only survived for 6 hours and 2 days respectively, the latter died at the Children's Hospital in Stockton-on-Tees.

Another infantile death occurred at 2 days of age due to prematurity and two deaths were due to Broncho Pneumonia, one at 4 weeks old with congenital abnormalities and the fifth death due to Whooping Cough at 5 months of age. In 1954 there were no infantile deaths.

There were no stillbirths in 1955.

The death rate 13.5 (64 deaths) is higher than the corresponding rate for 1954 but is rather lower than that for England and Wales at 11.70.

The principal causes of death were heart disease (28) and vascular lesions of the nervous system (15); there were 9 deaths from cancer (11 in 1954) and one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, this latter case had been an inward transfer from County Durham where the patient had presumably acquired this infection.

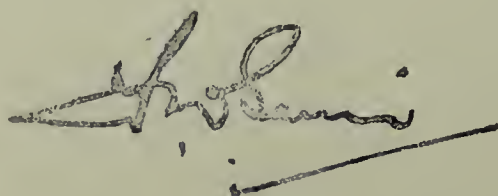
Infectious diseases were not very prevalent in 1955, measles accounting for 21 of the 28 cases notified - there were 3 cases of Whooping Cough, one of which was fatal aged 5 months as recorded above under infantile mortality.

It is pleasing to record that there were no cases of Poliomyelitis and no new notified cases of Tuberculosis in the District in 1955.

Diphtheria has been practically abolished owing to the complete success of artificial immunisation and 68 children completed a course of immunisation during the year. It is only by immunisation that this potential menace can remain conquered.

Successful vaccination numbered 25 of which 17 were in 0 - 5 years group giving a percentage of 27.5 vaccinated out of 61 births, an improved figure on that for 1954 but still too low to be considered satisfactory.

The Public Health work of the District has been carried out as usual and I would like to thank Mr. Hunter, the Sanitary Inspector for his kind co-operation at all times and my clerical staff for their constant help and conscientious work.



Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health: P.W. Grin. M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:- Mr. T. Ashcroft, O.R.S.I., (March, 1955)
Mr. G.D. Hunter, D.P.A., M.S.I.A. (Appointed 1-8-55)

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District in acres,	...	97630
Resident Population, mid-year estimate,	...	5070
Number of inhabited houses,	...	1409
Rateable value at 1st April, 1955,	...	£50,734
Sum represented by a penny rate,	...	£206/16/-
Rate in £ levied at 1st April, 1955,	...	10/6

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The number of live births registered during the year was 61 as against 69 in 1954. The birth rate comparisons shows that the rate for the District is higher than that for the rest of England and Wales.

Birth Rate Comparisons.

Live births per 1,000 population
Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and stillbirths,
as adjusted by Comparability Factors.

	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Stillbirths</u>
Startforth Rural District, 1954	11.61	28.17
Startforth Rural District, 1955	15.16	00.00
England and Wales, 1955,	15.00	23.10

Analysis of Births.

	<u>Live Births.</u>				<u>Stillbirths.</u>			
	<u>1954</u>		<u>1955</u>		<u>1954</u>		<u>1955</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Legitimate,	35	31	27	33	1	1	.	.
Illegitimate,	3	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
T otals	38	31	27	34	1	1	.	.

DEATHS. Maternal Mortality. Again, as in the past seven years there was no case of a woman dying in, or in consequence of child-birth in the District; this compares most favourably with the maternal mortality rate for the rest of England and Wales, which for 1955 was .64 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths.

Infantile Mortality. Five children under one year died in 1955, this compares unfavourably with none in 1954. The rate for England and Wales being 24.90.

Infantile Deaths.

1. Female,	2 weeks,	Broncho Pneumonia, Spina Bifida,
2. Female,	2 days,	Prematurity, (Twin #)
3. Female,	6 hours,	Prematurity, (Twin #)
4. Male,	5 months,	Suppurative broncho pneumonia, Whooping Cough,
5. Male,	2 days,	Prematurity.

Infantile Mortality Comparisons.Per 1,000 live births.

Startforth Rural District, 1954	00.00
Startforth Rural District, 1955	81.97
England and Wales, 1955,	24.90

Deaths from all causes. During 1955 there were 64 deaths from all causes registered in the District, as against 47 in 1954, a higher rate than that for the rest of the country.

Death rates comparisons.Death Rate per 1,000 pop.

Startforth Rural District, 1954	9.25
Startforth Rural District, 1955	13.50
England and Wales, 1955	11.70

Causes of all Deaths and Sexes.

	<u>1955</u>		<u>1954</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory,	.	1	.	.
Whooping Cough,	1	.	.	.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach,	3	1	.	1
" " lung, bronchus,	2	.	.	.
" " breast,	.	.	.	2
" " uterus,	.	.	.	.
Other malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms,	2	1	5	2
Leukaemia, .....	.	.	.	1
Diabetes, .....	.	.	1	.
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System,	7	8	4	5
Coronary Disease, angina.	4	8	4	2
Hypertension with Heart Disease,	.	.	.	2
Other Heart Diseases,	8	8	3	4
Other Circulatory Diseases,	2	.	1	4
Pneumonia, .....	.	1	.	.
Bronchitis, .....	.	.	1	.
Congenital Malformations,	.	1	.	.
Other defined and Ill-defined diseases,	1	4	1	4
Suicide,	<u>1</u>	<u>.</u>	<u>.</u>	<u>.</u>
Totals.	<u>31</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>27</u>

Ages at Death - from all causes.19541955

From birth to one day, ...	.	1
From one day to one week, ...	.	2
Over one week but under one year,	.	2
From 1 to 24 years, ...	2	1
From 25 to 54 years, ...	6	7
From 55 to 64 years, ...	4	10
From 65 to 74 years, ...	17	16
Over 75 years, ...	<u>13</u>	<u>25</u>
Totals,	<u>47</u>	<u>64</u>

It will be noted that 13 deaths are below the age of 55, 26 in the age group 55/74 and 25 were over 75 years of age at death.

Number of Deaths from the Seven Chief Causes and Comparisons
with the previous year.

<u>No. of Deaths.</u>		<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop</u>	
<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>		<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
9	11	Cancer, ...	1.77	2.17
1	1	Respiratory (Not Tuberculosis)	.20	.20
28	15	Heart Disease, ...	5.52	2.95
1	.	Tuberculosis - Pulmonary,	.20	.00
.	.	Tuberculosis - Non Pulmonary,	.00	.00
2	5	Other Circulatory Diseases,	.39	.98
<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System,	<u>2.96</u>	<u>1.77</u>
<u>56</u>	<u>41</u>	Totals	<u>11.04</u>	<u>8.07</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. There were 28 cases of notifiable and/or infectious diseases reported during 1955, as against 20 in 1954.

Analysis and comparisons with previous year.

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Meningococcal Infection,	.	2
Scarlet Fever,	1	.
Acute Pneumonia,	2	2
Erysipelas,	1	1
Non Paralytic Poliomyelitis,	.	1
Whooping Cough,	3	7
Measles,	21	5
Malaria,	<u>.</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	<u>28</u>	<u>20</u>

TUBERCULOSIS. Again there were no new notifications of Tuberculosis during the year, the last notifications being two in 1952.

Deaths from Tuberculosis. There was one death from this cause during the year, as against none in 1954. There being two deaths from this cause in 1953.

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS. Records received show that there were 25 vaccinations carried out during the year, as against 21 in 1954. 68 immunisations were carried out, as against 301 in 1954.

Comparisons and Age Groups of Vaccinations and Immunisations.

	<u>1955</u>		<u>1954</u>	
	<u>0-5 years</u>	<u>Over 5</u>	<u>0-5 years</u>	<u>Over 5</u>
Successful Vaccinations,	17	8	15	6
Completed Course of Immunisation,	24	44	49	252

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT, 1946.

- Section 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
- Section 23. Domiciliary Midwifery.
- Section 24. Health Visiting.
- Section 25. Home Nursing.

Three District Nurse/Midwives employed by the North Riding County Council carry out the duties required by the above sections. There is one Infant Welfare Centre in the District - at Barningham, which is under the jurisdiction of the County Council and is attended by a local practitioner and the District Nurse/Midwife for that area; full advantage being taken of the facilities offered.

Number of visits paid to the patients by the District Nurse/ Midwives during 1955 under the following categories, and compared with the same categories for 1954.

<u>Category</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Domiciliary Midwifery, ...	1021	1603
Home Nursing, ...	1471	4106
Health Visiting, ...	1496	2639

Section 27. Ambulance Service. This service is provided by the County Council from the Ambulance Station at Richmond which has a staff of one Driver/Foreman, one Shift Leader and 5 Driver/Attendants, and with the assistance of the Hospital Car Service covers the Richmond Borough, and Rural Districts of Richmond, Startforth, Croft and Reeth.

Section 28. Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health Service, inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors and Nurses, must all have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community.

Section 29. Domestic Help Service.

This service is provided by arrangement with the North Riding County Council, and during 1955 eleven cases received help, as compared with ten cases in 1954, the analysis and comparisons being as follows:-

<u>Category.</u>	<u>1955</u>		<u>1954</u>	
	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Hours.</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Hours.</u>
Domiciliary Confinement,	3	120	6	514½
Chronic Sick.	4	1359	3	952
Sick Housewife,	3	682	1	72
Tuberculosis,	1	46	—	—
Totals	11	2207	10	1538½

Section 51. Mental Health. No Committee in the Area and no cases arose during 1955 — as in 1954

Dental Service. This service is provided by arrangement with the County Council.

National Assistance Act 1948. Section 47 No cases removed during the year.

The remainder of this report was compiled by your Sanitary Inspector.

Total number of inspections for nuisances only,	128
Total number of nuisances found,	31
Total number of Statutory Notices served,	—
Total number of informal notices served,	19

Public Cleansing. During the year a Scavenging Service operated throughout the area and only remote out-lying premises were not served. Refuse from the greater part of the area is collected weekly although in a few places a fortnightly service meets the requirements, whilst a twice weekly collection is made at the military establishment in Startforth. Refuse tips were in operation at Mickleton and Barningham both of which are of a semi-controlled type.

Infectious Diseases. No cases requiring disinfection were notified during the year.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

Number of factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are enforced by Local Authority, ...	12
Number of inspections of above, ...	15

Number of factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority, ...	6
Number of inspections of above, ...	11

Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority, ...	4
Number of inspections of above, ...	7

Inspection and supervision of food.

Twenty shops are registered, most of which are general stores. Nine of these are licensed to store ice-cream for sale. One milk dealer is registered, most of the area being served by producer-retailers.

Moveable Dwellings.

Licences were issued to two people to station caravans on land occupied by them. There is one licensed camping site at the Lendings, Startforth and an unlicensed site at Millfield, Startforth.

Sewage. The Council own modern sewage disposal works at Cotherstone and Mickleton both of which villages are provided with a satisfactory system of sewers. The sewage disposal works at Barningham, Bowes, Romaldkirk and Startforth are inadequate and largely obsolete and are not capable of producing a satisfactory effluent. The villages of Boldron, Lartington, Ovington, Hutton Magna and Holwick have no proper system of sewers or sewage disposal works. A similar situation obtains in the small centres of population in the parishes of Barforth, Gilmonby, Rokeby, Hunderthwaite, Wycliffe and Thorpe.

Water Supply. During the year work was commenced on the provision of a water scheme, embodying the construction of a reservoir and the laying of mains, to provide a supply for the village of Holwick. The Council has its own water undertakings in the parishes of Bowes, Boldron, Barningham and Hutton Magna. The parishes of Mickleton, Cotherstone, Romaldkirk, Lartington, Barforth and Ovington are supplied with water by the Tees Valley Water Board and the parish of Startforth by the Barnard Castle U.D.C., the sources of whose supplies are situated within the Startforth rural area. The year 1955 was noteworthy for a particularly fine and dry summer and water supply difficulties were experienced in many parts of the country. Within this area difficulties were encountered with the public supplies at Bowes and Boldron. At the former village nightly restrictions of the supply took place for some months whilst at the latter the supply failed altogether and temporary pumping arrangements had to be made.

Twenty-six samples of water for bacteriological examinations were taken during the year, of which sixteen were satisfactory and ten unsatisfactory. Four of the unsatisfactory samples were from public supplies and appropriate remedial measures were taken in each case. The remainder of the unsatisfactory samples came from private supplies, and in each case the persons concerned were advised.

Housing.

No. of Statutory Notices under Housing Act 1936, Section 9,...	Nil
" " " " Section 11,...	1

No. of houses closed as a result of action under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, ...	3
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No. of applications for Improvement Grants under Housing Act, 1949 received during the year, ...	Nil
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No. of houses erected during the year:-

(a) By Local Authority, ...	Nil
(b) By private persons, ...	1

Rodent Control.

Domestic premises treated, ...	15
Sewer manholes baited, ...	72
Local Authority properties treated, ...	2
Other premises treated, ...	4